

**Samuel Laycock School
Proposal to increase the capacity of the school
Consultation Document**

November 2014

Proposal

To increase the current capacity of Samuel Laycock School which is a secondary school for children with moderate learning difficulties to enable access for children who have Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC). The school is currently designed to provide for 100 pupils in year groups of 20 and class groups of 10. It is proposed to increase the capacity of the school to facilitate up to 60 additional pupil places to accommodate children with ASC. This will increase the schools overall capacity from 100 to 160 and increase the published admission number from 20 to 32 for each admission intake, commencing from September 2015 and that the school would have a full capacity of 160 pupils by September 2019.

Basic Need

In autumn 2013 the government announced additional investment for schools and launched the Targeted Basic Need Programme to fund the provision of new, high quality school places in areas where there are pressures for additional places and a need to prepare for further rises in pupil numbers.

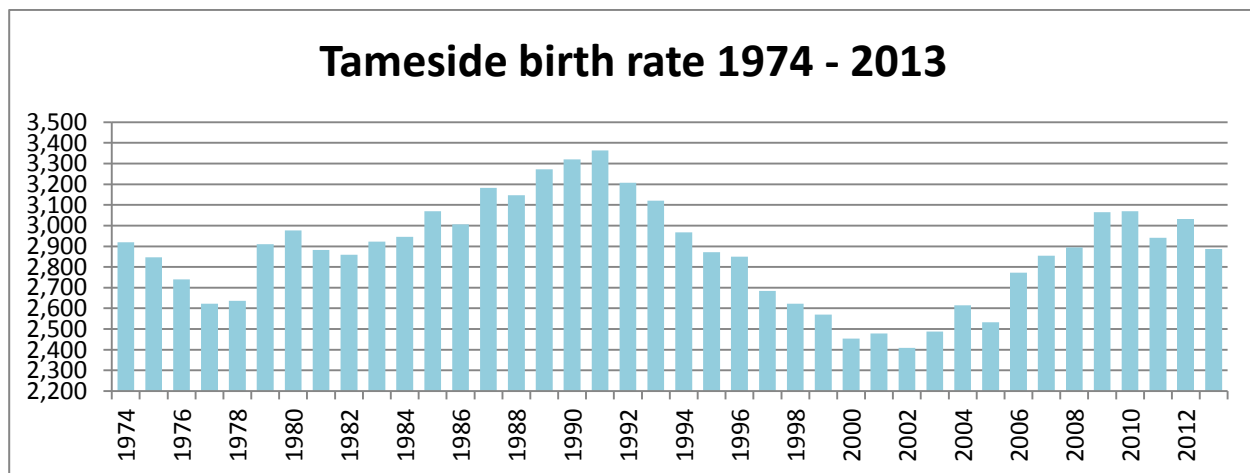
Tameside Council has been successful in securing support under the Targeted Basic Need Programme to enlarge Samuel Laycock School.

Rationale for an increase in capacity at the school

Tameside Council constantly reviews school places in the borough and takes into account a range of factors when predicting the number of school places needed.

- **An increase in the pupil population**

The main indicator for the number of places needed is the birth rate in the borough. The graph below illustrates the birth rates in Tameside over the last 38 years cycle.



As can be seen, the birth rate has increased significantly in Tameside between 2005 and 2010 with a 21% increase, births are now around 3,000 per year. As a special school, Samuel Laycock draws its pupils from across the borough so any increase in the borough as a whole will be reflected in the school's numbers.

The fluctuation in the birth rate over a period of time is called the birth rate cycle. In Tameside, this cycle is approximately 25 years from peak birth rate to peak birth rate so we are predicting that the birth rate is unlikely to start reducing until 2016. As the increase in primary pupil numbers moves through the year groups, it is likely that the demand for places in High Schools will start to increase from 2016 onwards. This will also impact on the number of children with moderate learning difficulties and in particular children with ASC who require special educational needs education.

Another factor in planning school places is the amount of new housing development being planned in the borough. Tameside's core strategy is the key compulsory local development document. Every local development document is built on the principles set out in the core strategy, regarding the development and use of land in Tameside's planning area. The core strategy is currently being reviewed and it is predicted that an additional 11,000 houses will be built in the borough, over the next 15 years. This will require approximately an additional 4,000 school places in total or 330 school places per year group.

The Council is planning to introduce permanent places into the Special Educational Needs High school system, to cover the projected increase.

- **Provision for pupils with ASC in Tameside**

Samuel Laycock is currently full in all year groups. The number of pupils with statements naming ASC as the main learning need have increased significantly over the last few years. In the secondary sector, there is an ASC resource base at St Thomas More RC College but this does not meet the needs of all our Tameside pupils with ASC. Many pupils are currently placed in schools outside of Tameside in order to have their learning needs met and this proposed increase in numbers at Samuel Laycock will allow these pupils to return to learning in the borough if they wish and for pupils moving from the primary phase to secondary education to have an option to learn with their peers in Tameside.

The Council has a statutory duty under the Education Act 2011, to secure sufficient and suitable places for pupils in its area. Taking into account the range of factors above, this consultation proposes that the enlargement of Samuel Laycock High School building is designed to accommodate 160 pupils, an increase of 60 pupils to support the satisfaction of the need for additional Special Educational Needs places in the borough under the Targeted Basic Need Programme.

Timescales

The enlargement of the school will be built in accordance with the following projected timescales; the indicative programme for this is as follows;

- Procurement Process from May 2014 to December 2014
- Design of school from June to August 2014
- Planning approval from October 2014
- Construction from Jan 2015, onwards with an approximate timescale for the build of 6 months.

How to make your views known

It is important to stress that **no decisions have been made**. Tameside Council wishes to consult widely, particularly with parents and the school. Statutory proposals are required for a proposed enlargement of the premises of the school, which would increase the capacity of the school by more than 30 pupils and there are 4 statutory stages for a statutory proposal for an excepted expansion:

1. A statutory notice will be published in the local press on the **20th November 2014**;
2. Representation – Formal Consultation is a period in which comments on proposals can be made including objections and expressions of support for proposals which will commence on **20th November until 19th December 2014**
3. Council Decision on proposals - the Council will consider a Key Decision Report, taking into account feedback received during the consultation process. A meeting will be held to consider the Key Decision report and this will take place **within 2 months** of the closing date of the consultation. At the meeting, the Cabinet Deputy will make a decision based on recommendations contained in the Key Decision Report
4. Implementation – the decisions will be implemented after the Key Decision meeting

The representation period will run from 20th November 2014 to 19th December 2014. As part of the consultation process there will be consultation meetings with staff, governors, and parents from primary schools as appropriate as well as local councillors, unions and interested parties. There will be separate meetings for staff, governors and parents. Council officers will consult with parents on a 1:1 basis at the school meetings.

All representations must be made in writing and a response sheet is attached to the back of this document for you to comment on the proposal. All those interested in responding to the consultation are invited to comment in writing or by returning the attached response form to:

Catherine Moseley
Head of Access and Inclusion
Room 2.111, Council Offices
Wellington Road
Ashton under Lyne
Lancs
OL6 6DL

Email: catherine.moseley@tameside.gov.uk no later than 12 noon **Friday 19th December**.



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Please give all the details you can:

Name

Address

Email

I am (please tick one box)

Parent/Carer	<input type="checkbox"/>	School Governor	<input type="checkbox"/>	Staff member	<input type="checkbox"/>
At (please name the school)					
I am not in one of the above categories but still wish to comment on the proposals					<input type="checkbox"/>

I wish to make a comment on the following proposals

Proposal	Comment (please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)
To increase the capacity of Samuel Laycock School from 100 pupils to 160 pupils.	

Please return this completed form to:

Catherine Moseley
Head of Access and Inclusion
Room 2.111, Council Offices
Wellington Road
Ashton under Lyne
Lancs
OL6 6DL

Email: catherine.moseley@tameside.gov.uk no later than 12 noon, Friday 20 December 2014.